

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 /117 W
-----042228 081403Z /72

R 081330Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 1170

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
RUDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CY, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR DENIES USSR WILL GIVE MILITARY
AID TO TURKEY

REF: NICOSIA 1127 (DTG 280907Z APR 78)
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1. ON MAY 5 SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASTAVIN CALLED ON PRESIDENT
KYPRIANOU TO REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S APRIL 27 PROTEST OVER
REPORTS THAT USSR WOULD STRENGTHEN MILITARY COOPERATION
WITH TURKEY (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO GOC SPOKESMAN,
ASTAVIN TOLD KYPRIANOU THAT SOVIET UNION'S POSITION ON
CYPRUS WAS BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND NOT LIABLE TO CHANGE

WITH CIRCUMSTANCES. HE DESCRIBED REPORTS THAT USSR INTENDED TO SELL ARMS OR PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR INDUSTRY AS ENTIRELY UNFOUNDED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID MARSHAL OGARKOV'S VISIT TO ANKARA WAS CONTINUATION OF NORMAL CONTACTS IN SPIRIT OF CSCE FINAL ACT, AND THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS HAD INCLUDED SUCH SUBJECTS AS EXCHANGE VISITS BY WARSHIPS AND MILITARY ATHLETIC TEAMS. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU DECLARED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE SOVIET RESPONSE.

2. GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS, WITH EXCEPTION OF COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET UNION OVER OGARKOV FLAP, WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF LEADING STORIES FOR PAST TEN DAYS. HOWEVER, MOST PAPERS EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF SOVIET REPLY TO GOC PROTEST. ONLY RIGHT-WING PAPERS SIMERINI AND AGHON TOOK A MORE SKEPTICAL VIEW, POINTING OUT THAT USSR IS MAJOR AID DONOR TO TURKEY AND THAT SOVIET POLICY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DICTATED BY SOVIET INTERESTS, NOT PRINCIPLES.
STONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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